



## **Embassy of Saint Lucia in the Republic of Cuba**

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Havana, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Embassy of Saint Lucia in the Republic of Cuba has the honor to transmit its warmest greetings to the Saint Lucia-Cuba Humanistic Solidarity Association on the Celebration of its 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at this Sixth Biennial meeting. I am pleased to have been invited to share the special occasion with all of you back home.

The Embassy has as its core mandate: the provision of support to facilitate functional cooperation between the Governments and peoples of our two beloved countries. This entails defining a strategic agenda that seeks to establish linkages among all relevant organization and agencies, foster collaborative sustainable initiatives in ways that engenders the development of our socio-economic and political life experiences.

We would have all felt the impact of our “Cuban Experiences” by virtue of the contribution of the many Cuban professionals, the contribution of many of our very own professional graduates from Cuban Universities and learning institutions; some of us would have naturally reestablished or build families with the loving people of Cuba.

However, what is of most significance, that we must never forget are the following contributions of the Cuban Revolution, the Cuban People led arguably by the greatest leader of our time- Fidel Castro Ruz:

1. The educating of hundreds of thousands of poor and disadvantage kids and young persons all over the world – Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, South Pacific, most of whom are today’s leaders in their respective countries. They continue to contribute significantly to the socio-economic, political and culture development.
2. The strategic supporting role of the Cuban Revolution in Africa’s successful fight in the process of dismantling colonialism and apartheid.
3. The support of the Cuban People towards the liberation of Latin American people from the many military dictatorship regimes existent.
4. The demonstrated support and sacrifice of the Cuban people in response to disease outbreaks such as Ebola in Africa, Covid 19 pandemic in the Caribbean and other countries like Italy, Iran, Viet Nam, Venezuela.
5. The demonstration to the world community of real development possibilities in education, health, sports and culture, even while they have been confronted with a financial and economic blockade for decades, that has



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been imposed by the most influential and powerful country in the world. It is no wonder, that the world community, with the exception of a handful of countries, continue to vote in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution at the UN General Assembly, demanding a total dismantling of the inhuman blockade designed to inflict the greatest socio-economic distress, hoping the people would abandon their historical mission and liberation process.

6. The lead role of the Cuban revolution in the regional integration process by the proactive participation in the formation of CELAC, ALBA and strategic support of CARICOM and ACS.

This is a moment in human history when we experience the greatest creation and concentration of wealth with its resultant devastating consequences for humanity. I refer to for example:

The crisis of Climate Change and SIDS; the extreme poverty and malnutrition of over a billion of the world population; the emergence of devastating disease outbreaks, the worst of which the world has never experienced before – current pandemic; many wars that has resulted in the destruction of peoples- death, injury of children, women, the elderly and of course men of integrity and dignity; the creation of failed States such as Libya and Somalia; food and financial crises with today's extreme global inflation triggered by the pandemic and fueled by the European - USA War.

It is in this context that one continues to appreciate the valuable contribution of the Cuban people to humanity albeit at extreme sacrifices. It is also in this context that the Embassy of Saint Lucia defines its role in fostering functional cooperation, collaboration, and solidarity with Cuba in particular, and the many other countries (over 125) having resident embassies in Havana. Our role within this diplomatic hub, also includes the facilitation and provision of logistical support to visiting delegations and patients. We are committed to assisting our students within the limits of the resources available, given the difficult circumstances in which they are required to excel. I am very proud to report that St. Lucan students continue the legacy of standing tall in academic performance.

The Embassy of Saint Lucia in Cuba applauds the consistent effort and hard work of the leaders and members of the HSA and avail itself to working with you in identifying pragmatic initiatives aim at consolidating the historical relationship between our two Peoples. We are therefore committed to working closely with



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ICAP, the Cuban agency responsible for collaborating with Cuban friendship organization all over the world.

I am convinced that sustainable development is possible to the extent that our people can proactively participate in organizations of empowerment for the creation of enhanced capacity, linkages and taking responsibility for their destiny.

The Embassy wishes you the very best experience today and a very fruitful outcome of this activity. I especially want to thank President Marlene Alexander for extending the invitation to me. We look forward to working with you in tangible ways.

Long live the HSA Saint Lucia-Cuba.

Long live the warm friendship between the people of Cuba and Saint Lucia.

Long Live the Cuban People and their revolution

***“HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE”***

I thank you very much and wish you well – BE SAFE!

*Dr. Charles Isaac*

**Ambassador**